

An initiative for participatory monitoring of large scale land acquisitions: Opportunities and results so far



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Challenges related to land acquisition

- Data on land acquisitions is difficult to get, often unreliable
- The phenomenon is very dynamic
- Data often only available at national level
- Information on proponents and stakeholders is crucial

The Matrix Project:

What it is and who is involved?

- ✓ Open database of land-related investment projects enabling continued monitoring and improvement of data accuracy by project's partners and other actors.
- ✓ Involves a large number of organizations and individuals working on the ground
- ✓ Research partnership between ILC, CIRAD, CDE, Oxfam Novib and GIZ
- ✓ Part of wider initiative of ILC on Commercial Pressures on Land



From rumours to more reliable information

Objectives:

- Transparency over individual deals
- Inform on the scale, trends and impacts on global scale
- Analysis of drivers

Collection and verification of data

Data collection:

Media reports

Research reports

Survey with ILC partners

Verification of data

Review of data by
partners and experts

Continuous up-date



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
		1a	1b	1c	1d	1e	2	3	4
		country	region	administrative district 1	administrative district 2	paste special code produced in this field	size of investment (ha)	month/year of investment agreement	month/year of commencement operations
1		Philippines	Asia					signed February 2009	
2		Philippines	Asia				10 000		
3		Philippines	Asia				1240 000	on hold	discontinued
4	✓	Philippines	Asia	Region Occidental, Bukidnon, Tarlac	San Carlos (Negros), Khavie (Bukidnon), Capas (Tarlac)	5c0b2e4-d864-d9f-0571-8e043e50b0	100 000		
5	✓	Philippines	Asia	Cebu	Toledo	952a93e-550-d89-b5d0-e3d4e716e6c0			2004
6	✓	Philippines	Asia	Medan	Cagayan de Oro, Bukidnon and other parts of the Philippines	616726d-0a6b-5d9-319-5a7882d67b9	7 000		
7	✓	Philippines	Asia	Sarangani Province		6e0415a-026-3d31-5956-8a94d9d9011	700 000		
8	✓	Philippines	Asia	Sarangani Province	Malabon	0575a05-a5d-79ca-734a-e02409b9b0	50 000		
9	✓	Philippines	Asia	Luzon		16a439-d572-d85-9a7c-b56d90b0a4	50	planned for (early) 2010	
10	✓	Philippines	Asia	Medan	Tarlac	b03a735-65d-295-0376-34d073baf62d	50 000		
11	✓	Philippines	Asia	Medan		5622099-4034-56c5-0a5d-26c024d8a17a	10	2009	
12		Philippines	Asia	Deves			20 000		
13		Philippines	Asia				10 000		between January March 2009
14		Philippines	Asia			7039e79-439a-706-037e-a05090d7021	1000 000	1 January 2007	
15		Philippines	Asia			30760294-420d-43d9-9069-5b785e14ae	40 000	1 January 2007	
16		Philippines	Asia			13d0c42-4b05-e703-e577-5270d4cd4c5	0.5	1 January 2007	
17		Philippines	Asia			08a0d71-b3de-f96a-2aff-eeacc0a5b09		1 January 2007	
18		Philippines	Asia			b0729e1-0592-3c37-4e71-e0b7c0023390		1 January 2007	
19		Philippines	Asia			b701959-022e-9812-c467-40019ae0631		1 January 2007	
20		Philippines	Asia			0542b01-091a-7308-4035-1047-ef0baf		1 January 2007	
		Philippines	Asia			63a423d7-7009-28a4-dacc-d904e735614	10 000	1 January 2007	

Emerging patterns (1):

1233 announcements of land deals in database up to now

80 Mio ha globally

- 51 Mio ha in Africa,
- 19 Mio ha in Asia,
- 9 Mio ha in Latin America,
- 1 Mio ha in other regions, mainly Eastern Europe

Tip of the iceberg?

Overestimation
based on rumours?

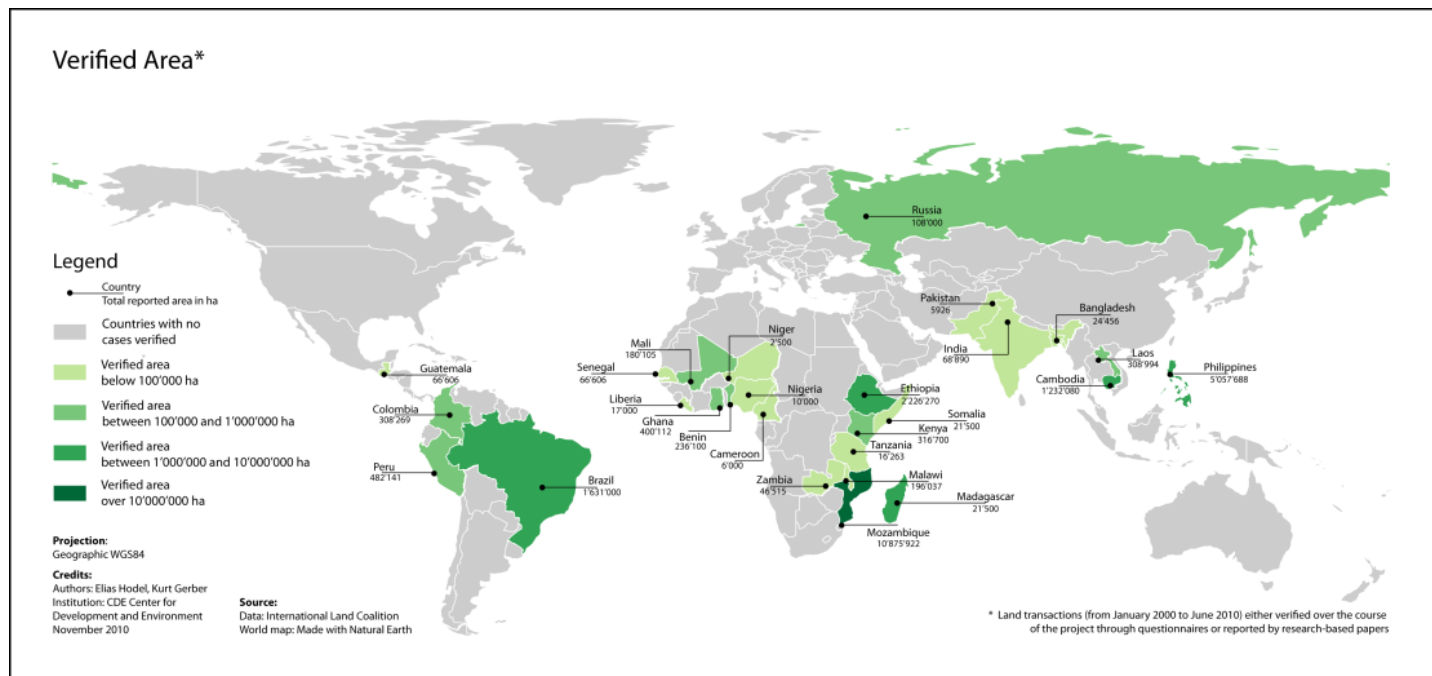
Source: ILC matrix project,
CIRAD

ILC-CDE-Oxfam Novib- CIRAD-GIZ

Emerging patterns (2):

-17 Mio ha of deals actually signed and verified globally

-8 Mio ha in Africa and Asia each



Source: ILC matrix project,
CIRAD

Develop dynamic monitoring tools:

Open access, web-based, spatially explicit, live updates

- Moving from survey to more systematic approach
- „Crowd-sourcing“ of data input
- Validation-verification through «crowd» (network of experts)
- Spatial analysis (overlay with additional data)

Developing a vision for a continuous information and monitoring system:

Requirements:

- live update to overcome high dynamics
- need for contextualisation to show political dimension
- relate land interventions to stakeholders (accountability)
- “democratize” reporting and ensure quality control

Opportunities:

- Spatial data open access and publicly manageable
- Social network tools changing governance systems
- Web goes mobile (overcoming digital divide)

Crowd-sourcing as an opportunity for data-input

- Rumors can be tracked by reports (via sms, twitter etc.) and serve as early-warning system
- Reports will contribute information about on-going deals and their impacts
- Live-up date possible
- Validation by experts still needed

Example: Ushahidi

- Collecting reports from different sources (web, sms, etc...)
- Mapping the reports spatially
- Categorize information, etc.
- Verifying reports
- Subscribe to alerts..

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- ☐ KIDNAPPINGS
- ☐ LOOTING
- ☐ MINES
- ☐ ORIGIN OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE
- ☐ PEACE EFFORTS
- ☐ PROPERTY LOSS
- ☐ REBEL GROUP
- ☐ RIOTS
- ☐ SEXUAL VIOLENCE
- ☐ UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE
- ☐ VERIFIED SOURCES

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Developing a vision for a continuous information and monitoring system:

Input

Key informants

“Crowdsourcing”

Global & national
spatial information

Web-based and
continuously
updated global
database

Contextualisation of land interventions

Geo-referenced database depicting
relations stakeholders–interventions

Stakeholders

Land
Interventions

Stakeholders

Land
Interventions



Agriculture, natural resources, landuse, poverty, etc.

Output

Monitoring and
evaluation

Stakeholder
negotiation and
Advocacy

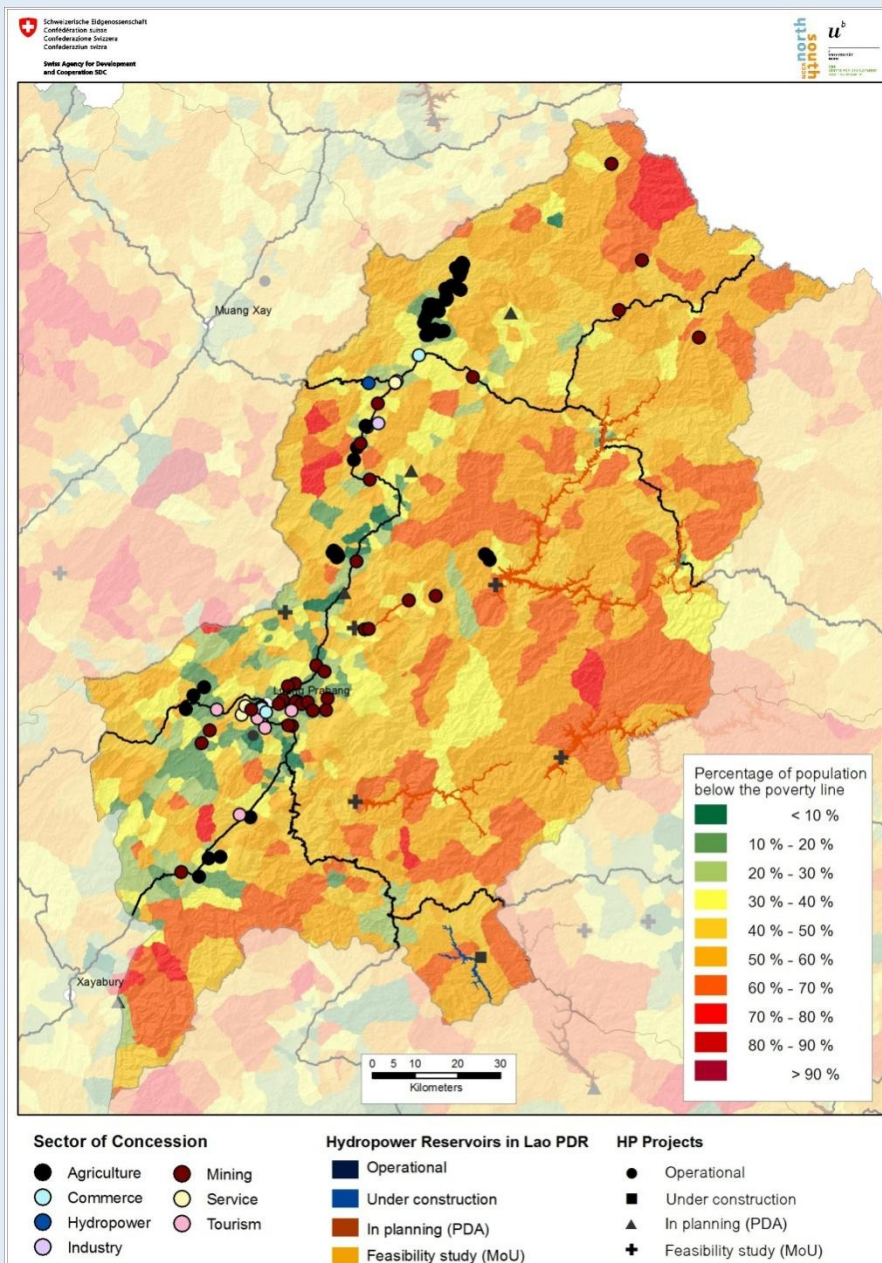
Informed
decision-making

Spatially-explicit analysis of land acquisitions

Example from Lao PDR
Land use concessions are
found in the best agricultural
lands....

with high population
densities...

with relatively low poverty
rates...



The matrix platform provides:

- a basis for improved understanding of the extent and nature of land-based investments,
- a basis for dialogue and debate,
- a tool to promote better decision-making at local, national and global levels regarding land investment,
- a tool to promote more transparency related to land-based investments
- a means to empower affected communities to protect and claim their rights,
- a source of information to promote accountability in cases of investment-related dispossession and other human rights abuses.

Moving towards the second phase

- ✓ Existing database is being up-dated, contributions are very welcome
- ✓ Initiative is open to new partners
- ✓ More intensive work in pilot countries is a next objective